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UCAPAWA

"AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL"

UNITED CANNERY, AGRICULTURAL, PACKINGHOUSE AND ALLIED WORKERS OF AMERICA-CIO

Vol. III, No. 1 — February 1, 1943 — 68 — Price 5 cents

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WIN EARLY SUCCESSES IN FLORIDA CITRUS DRIVE

Philadelphia, Jan. 18.—Swift progress in the drive to organize the Florida citrus industry, a drive opened less than a month ago by UCAPAWA, indicates that the 30,000 workers will soon be part of our Food for Victory union.

"To include Florida citrus workers in our union has long been an ambition of UCAPAWA," said Pres. Donald Henderson who recently returned from Florida. "The workers have desperately needed a union for years. With a war to win in which food is a major weapon, not only the workers, but the industry and the entire country needs the union, to help assure this food supply."

HEADING THE DRIVE to organize the big Florida citrus fruit industry, is Vice-Pres. Otis G. Nation.

Area Formerly Terror-Ridden

Scene of the blackest pages of terror in the history of the labor movement, the ridge region around Orlando is now a bee-hive of Union activity. With five full-time organizers and many volunteers busy day and night, not a day passes but what some worker comes to the union office asking why HIS shed has not yet been organized.

UCAPAWA has notified numbers of shippers that the Union now represents a majority, at the same time filing with the War Labor Board for a wage increase.

Key Sheds Signed Up

Two of the key packing houses, major victory in UCAPAWA's shed organizing drive in the West are:

sweep of organization. Proud Independents in the style of Henry Ford a few years back, Fosgate now sees 75% of the workers wearing the UCAPAWA red-white-and-blue membership buttons in the sheds, while Keene has been forced to post a notice announcing that "his" workers are free to join UCAPAWA.

Bargaining rights have been won in two plants, one in which a consent cross-check showed a six to one UCAPAWA majority, the other in which an election turned in a 136 to 22 vote for the Union.

Pickers Back on Job

Pickers in Polk County who stopped picking in the midst of a turbulent rash of rate-cutting and efforts to import workers from out-of-state, have gone back to work on terms suggested by the Union. They are now building UCAPAWA organization.

Heading the drive is UCAPAWA Vice-Pres. Otis G. Nation, President of the Arkansas Industrial Union Council, who has behind him an impressive record of organization in the Mississippi Delta area.

See Story on Page 2, Col. 1

Union Security Established In Major Vegetable Packing Areas

Philadelphia, Jan. 18.—Local 78 has won Union Security—either Union Shop or maintenance of membership—in the vegetable packing sheds in all major areas of big commercial vegetable farms in the Southwest.

For long years an anti-union stronghold of powerful industrial groups against which the shed workers have heroically but — until now — unsuccessfully batted their heads, UCAPAWA contracts will cover a total of some 9,500 workers.

Vitamins to Wallop Axis

Union victory is especially important at this time when orderly production of "Food for Victory" is vital to our country. With the establishment of stable unionism and union conditions, Local 78 will be able to play a key part in seeing to it that vegetables packed with vitamins to whip the Axis will roll out of the sheds in quantity and in good condition.

Events reported by Vice-Pres.

Salt River Valley, Arizona

Signing of maintenance of membership contracts covering 32 sheds employing some 2,500 workers in the Salt River Valley, near Phoenix, Arizona. Wages are to be decided by the WLB.

Yuma, Arizona

Union Shop contracts signed in Yuma, Arizona, together with voluntary wage increase of about 25%, waiting for WLB approval. Contract hourly rates are now $1 and $1.20. Four similar contracts are about to be signed in nearby Somerton, organized for the first time, bringing the total of workers covered by Union Shop contracts in this area to some 1,000.

Imperial Valley, Calif.

First Union Shop contracts ever to be signed in Imperial Valley, Calif., carrying Yuma conditions on wages and other important points. All sheds in Brawley have been signed, and most of El Centro and Holtville will in the fold this week, making a total of some 3,000 workers covered in Imperial.

Salinas, Calif.

A strong maintenance of membership clause agreed to for the 35 sheds in Salinas, Calif., rich valley which is famous as the "salad bowl of the Nation."

Although the contract is not yet signed, this and other contract terms have been agreed to before a WLB panel. The question of wages and hours in Salinas is going before the WLB for final decision. Some 3,500 workers pack in the sheds here during the long eight month deal.

On-the-spot stories telling of the magnificent achievements of UCAPAWA in Phoenix and in Brawley in the Imperial Valley, are on page 2. These stories are typical of the issues and spirit of the workers in all the sheds.

CIO Locals To Organize Swift Political Action

Washington.—Decisions which call every UCAPAWA member to take part in helping to stop reactionary measures in Congress, and to gain progressive win-the-war laws were made at the CIO legislative conference which met here Jan. 14.

Explaining why we must do this to help our brothers who are fighting to win the war, and to protect our living standards so we may work well at home, Pres. Henderson tells the locals how to start

NEWS, on page 4. Points in the CIO Victory program for which we are fighting are outlined on the same page.

Lick Indifference

"The job ahead of us is a tremendous job," Pres. Murray told the conference. Murray sharply warned against the "spirit of indifference" that could easily lead to defeat of CIO's victory program and to severe crippling laws against labor threatened by some reactionary members of the new Congress.

"It is the spirit of indifference that at such times results in defeat," he said. "People say: 'Somebody in Washington will take care of that.' The somebody in Washington can take care of that only when the people back home make up their minds to help in 'taking care of that.'"

In an analysis of the new House of Representatives, given by Nathan Cowan, CIO legislative representative, the conference delegates got a tough lesson in the facts of life concerning the outlook for support for the administration and of labor's win-the-war program.

House Not Progressive

Cowan pointed out that of 222 [illegible] of labor's defenders amounts to about 81 this year, as compared to 136 last year.

"It is our job to keep in constant contact with members of Congress every day of the legislative session and in the intervals keep them constantly aware of the fact that CIO and all its members are following their actions and looking to him to maintain a united front behind our Commander-in-Chief to support measures really calculated to win the war," Cowan said.

For Political Action NOW

This job is now every bit as important as grievance work, for instance, in the plant. Local unions were asked to consider, as an example, what good it is to win a wage increase and have it taken away by a sales tax passed in Washington. UCAPAWA knows the answer to that one. Our answer is swift and practical. We are organizing for political action in our locals NOW.

Stew Makers Gain Strong First Pact

By Beatrice Johnson, Int. Rep.

Sterling, Ill.—Betty Marie Williamson, youthful President of Local 310 and Int. Rep. Beatrice Johnson signed the first contract gained by this newly chartered local, Jan. 14. The contract, with Sterling Brands, Inc., canners of beef stew for the Army, calls for maintenance of membership.

At the general membership meeting on the same day, completion of the contract after six weeks' organizational activity, was accepted with great enthusiasm.

Committee on the Job

Members of the Negotiating Committee, consisting of Alice Ackland, Chairman, Annie Hendricks, Myrtle Fiegley, Edward Roberts and Wallace Miller, all got a big hand for the fine job they did in negotiating the contract which for the first time introduces order into the chaotic working conditions in the plant.

Of special importance to the workers are the seniority clause which gives them protection on the job and stability in the department, against favoritism. Stewards head the seniority list in each department.

Through the Steward System, already operating, scores of accumulated grievances are being settled.

To Smash 40c Pay

Wages and vacations with pay are the only issues awaiting War Labor Board decision. Union brief to present to the WLB referee is being prepared, setting forth why the disgraceful condition of a 40 cent hour wage must be corrected, including the point that workers are leaving the plant every day for better paid jobs, creating lags in production and the grave danger

Continued on Page 8, Col. 1

No Exemptions On Double Time Pay

Double time shall be paid for all work performed on the seventh consecutive work day, regardless of exemption periods which the plant may have due to seasonality, according to a U. S. Dept. of Labor ruling interpreting the President's decree on premium pay.

In notifying the locals of this ruling, Pres. Henderson explained that "many of our industries and plants are permitted seasonal exemptions of fourteen weeks up to fifty-six hours, and additional seasonal exemption of another fourteen weeks, with no limitation.

"The recent ruling of the Wage and Hour Division means that regardless of these exemptions, any work performed on the seventh consecutive work day must be paid for at double time rates."

EL TRELLES WORKERS, locked-out since Aug. 13, 1942, need funds now. Victory is in sight.

See story, page 6, col. 1.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION

Eye-Witness Stories of the Big Shed Drives

Citrus Fruit Campaign Sweeps Florida

By Robert Mac Kay, International Representative

Orlando, Fla., Jan. 15—Citrus shippers in Florida's ridge section, one of the nation's richest citrus shipping centers, realized this week that the UCAPAWA was in their midst in a big way. Many of them received notices from the Florida Citrus and Allied Workers' Union, Local 4, new state-wide citrus local, that it represented the majority of their employees. Simultaneously, Local 4 filed with the War Labor Board for a wage increase for citrus workers, whose wages are startlingly low.

The citrus workers have been requesting UCAPAWA for some time now to stage a real organizing campaign in their industry, and the campaign now under way, with five organizers and a state-wide scope is their answer.

Workers Go For UCAPAWA

The drive is headed by Otis G. Nation, Int. Vice-Pres., as Chairman of the Organizing Committee, with Robert MacKay as Sec. Treas. and Alfred G. Helms, John Davis and N. Davis, Int. Representatives.

"Florida citrus workers really want a union," said Nation after a few weeks in the drive. "We are here to see that they have that opportunity, and an opportunity is all they need. That is sure.

"I have never seen workers more anxious for organization. We are busy night and day, trying to answer all the calls for meetings and information. The workers understand and like our program for the citrus industry, and are 100% behind the UCAPAWA., even if the shippers and the KKK are a little dubious."

No Night-Riding Now

Although the office has been open in Orlando less than a month, the local is already the proud possessor of two certifications and has a large number pending with the Labor Board.

The fact that this section is the scene of some of the blackest pages of terror in the history of the labor movement makes this all the more remarkable. Although the instigators of the past offenses against the labor movement here are still at large, apparently the situation has changed to the extent that the old night-riding tactics no longer seem applicable.

Anti-Union Acts Stymied

Principal points of organizing success at this writing are the packing houses of R. D. Keene and C. C. Fosgate, independent shippers. Both are bitterly anti-union, and have had charges of violations of the Wagner Act filed against them.

Both have made speeches to their workers during working hours on the subject of the union, and one of Fosgate's foremen conducted a so-called poll among the Fosgate employees to see who was for the union, and who against. Although no union member voted in the poll, out of the 40 that voted, nine voted for the UCAPAWA.

When Fosgate employees blossomed out in their brand-new UCAPAWA buttons on the morning of Jan. 14, it surprised even the most optimistic of the committee which was organizing the shed. Fully 75% of the workers had a pretty red-white-and-blue button on.

Wagner Act charges against R. D. Keene, shipper in Winter Garden, were withdrawn when Keene posted a notice that he would not discriminate against any employee for joining Local 4. This deeply impressed many who were not members, when they saw that the union was bigger and stronger than their employer.

6 to 1 For Union

While the citrus campaign was progressing rapidly, allied workers were organizing themselves, and were the first to obtain certification. A citrus packing supply Company was certified Jan. 7 as the result of a Labor Board card check which the union won six to one, and negotiations are now going on for a strong contract for these workers.

Employees of the Wilson and Toomer Company of Jacksonville went on strike Jan. 4 and returned to work after Robert Kinney, Shipyard organizer of that city, told them about the CIO. Kinney notified Local 4 that the workers wanted a union, and the Company agreed to an election to be held by the Conciliation Service. Commissioner James A. Holden conducted the election Jan. 14, with the result that Local 4 was chosen by the workers to the tune of 136-22.

Pickers on the Move

Organizing is also proceeding rapidly among the workers in Polk County, southerly part of the ridge region, where Local 4 has the job of attempting to obtain an orderly settlement of a wage dispute among the pickers. Commissioner Newcomb Barco of the Conciliation Service is holding conferences with shippers in that area over the wage dispute which resulted when shippers ran the rates for picking from 12c a box up to 22c, attempting to pirate labor.

When the shippers awoke to the dangers in the situation, they held a meeting of "growers" to cut the price, which the shippers all agreed to abide by. Pickers ceased to pick, but are mostly back to work now at 15c a box, the union's figure.

Promised $100—Get $15

Some of the large shippers are still holding out at 12c a box, and attempting to import labor from Georgia and Alabama war industries.

Shippers are telling prospective pickers that they can make from $75 to $100 a week. When the new pickers find that they earn about $12 to $15 a week, they go back home. UCAPAWA has complained to the War Manpower Commission about this waste of manpower, and about the fact that it has the cooperation of the local United States Employment Service.

Phoenix—All Sheds Sign

By Paul Gardner, International Representative

Phoenix, Arizona, Dec. 11, 1942.—Thirty-two sheds employing some 2500 workers have signed agreements with Local 78, bringing to these workers for the first time in the history of the Salt River Valley their long fought-for right to bargain collectively.

For years the right to bargain collectively in the mixed vegetable packing industry has been successfully eluded by the employers. The divide-and-rule tactic plus the intricate system of blacklisting and espionage used by these anti-labor employers had kept the workers from having any voice in the determination of their wages, hours and working conditions.

How the Bosses Ruled

The employers, on the other hand, had a practically closed shop union, the Central Arizona Grower-Shipper Association, the child of the Big Bertha outfit, the Western Growers Protective Association.

The strategy of the WPGA, besides playing one worker against another, was to confine union negotiations to each individual deal. Thus the use of the quickie strike although momentarily successful, brought future disaster to many honest and sincere union-minded workers when they reached their next deal because of the employers' policy of confining negotiations to the given area, and the blacklisting that met these leaders of quickie strikes upon attempting to report for work for the next deal.

"We Need UCAPAWA"

The years of oppression meted out to the workers brought about a fuller realization by these courageous and undaunted workers that a national union was their only answer to correct their miserable wages, hours and working conditions. In February 1942 they set out to organize the fresh fruit and vegetable industry under the banner of UCAPAWA-CIO.

Starting in Imperial Valley on the lettuce sheds, the drive rolled to Phoenix for the short Spring deal and on to Salinas, Calif. where Local 78 won an election in October. Then Local 78 came to Phoenix for the fall deal of 1942.

The shippers placed on each shed a scale of wages, hours and working conditions in their same old "take it or leave it" fashion. The workers neither took it nor left it. They did an amazing quickie job of organizing. The Int. Representatives backed by a united rank and file group of unionists, went to work on the employers in true American fashion.

The War Labor Board was notified that the wages, hours and working conditions posted by the employers were not arrived at through collective bargaining, and that the employers must sit down and bargain collectively in good faith.

Uncle Sam Puts Foot Down

The WLB telephoned from Washington to the shippers, telling them not only to retract the scale posted, but to bargain in good faith with Local 78. They further ordered a hearing for Dec. 14 at which time any issue not settled by collective bargaining would be heard and decided upon by the WLB.

The employers, confronted for the first time in history by a government agency that had the power to enforce its orders and by a rank and file which was well organized, had to swallow the bitter pill of collective bargaining.

By Dec. 10 an agreement had been reached that all 32 sheds would sign Union contracts the next day. Wages were left up to WLB decision.

Shipper Duck-Out Fails

Upon calling Riney B. Salmon, lawyer for the shippers, the Union was told that only 14 sheds would sign, since they were certified to do so by the WLB and the others were not. When the workers on the other 18 sheds heard that the Attorney was trying to leave them without Contract protection, they protested strongly and the shippers changed their tune.

On the same day—Dec. 11— the 32 sheds signed for the first time a bona fide Union agreement.

Notes from LOCALS

47 Some 300 children were shown a bang-up good time at the Christmas party of Local 47 at the Libby cannery in Blue Island, Ill., according to Sec. Treas. E. M. Rockrohr. The kids' party was followed in the evening by a dance for the grown ups.

Pres. Joe Cafero, acting as Master of Ceremonies for the children, introduced the entertainers, tap and acrobatic dancers, musicians who led the children in carol singing, and a Kitchen Band which provided the music for square dancing.

Then came Santa, who was Kate Greco well concealed behind white whiskers, to give out bags of fruit, candy, nuts and cookies, and ice cream and pop.

Members of the Entertainment Committee were Joe Carfero, Rose Carfello, Lillian Shouse, Sylvia Gabrione, Leo Puttkamer, Geo. Becker, Dorothy La Morte, and Elmer Rockrohr.

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58 All employees of the La Choy division of Local 58 in Detroit, Mich., have been granted a 5c per hour wage increase, including truck drivers, retroactive to the last week of September. This brings the women up to 68c and the men to 90c per hour.

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68 Racine Hecox and Robert Wirsing who have joined the Coast Guard, are leaving soon from Local 68 at Dailey Pickle in Saginaw, Mich.

Brother Bob will be a great loss, as he is Secretary-Treasurer, Recording Secretary and Chairman of our Committee. Sister Ida McLure will take over Bob's offices when he is called.

Brothers Alex Czuba, Henry Oswald and William Sweetland paid us a visit when they were home on leave.

—By Harriet Jacobi, Pr. Ag.

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79 Wage increases and improvement in the vacation clause were among the gains in Local 79's new contract with Beutel Canning, where they already have Union Shop, check-off.

Christmas Day saw Int. Vice-Pres. Bob Clark chasing Mr. Bud Beutel all over Bay City, Mich., to get his signature on the contract.

The wage increases, subject to War Labor Board approval, range from 5c to 12½c for women and 10c for men—all except one, who was increased 15c.

Workers with five or more years' seniority will get vacation pay based on 60 hours, instead of 56 hours as formerly. In addition, a provision for seasonal workers who have worked from eight to 12 months has been made. They will get 20 hours' pay.

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88 Another shop will be added to Local 88, Newark, N. J., with the signing of the contract with Wavery Packaging Co., manufacturers of powdered egg for the Government.

The agreement reached calls for a Union Shop, check-off, paid holidays and vacations, 40 hour week with time and one-half for overtime, and wage increases from 5c to 10c an hour. The Shop Committee, composed of Frances Williams and Robert Dunlop has been assisted by Int. Rep. Barney Henley. About 50 men and women work at Wavery.

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297 Members of Local 297 serving in the Armed Forces will get the difference between their present pay and what they would be making in the plant, according to the terms of the new contract with Woolson Spice, Toledo, Ohio.

In addition, any worker serving in an emergency with Civilian Defense will get one-half of what he would have made in the shop.

Other contract terms include dues check-off, a 5c increase, pay for six holidays and two weeks' vacation with pay for those with five or more years' seniority. All others get one week. A Christmas bonus of $35 was paid to all workers.

Local 297 officers for 1943 are: Norman Ackerman, Pres.; Dan Smith, Rec. Sec.; Stanley Kaiser, Fin. Sec.; and Kathryn Hase, Treas.

Christmas boxes were sent by the Local to all the members serving in the Armed Forces.

Victory in Imperial Valley

By Jimmie Patton, Member

Brawley, Calif. Jan. 4.—While the International Representatives were busy at Phoenix, Arizona with a hearing of the War Labor Board, the Rank and File membership with Int. Rep. Chuck Feller decided to try to establish Union Shop contracts with about 40 shippers in Imperial Valley.

On Dec. 15 a meeting was held to set up a Negotiating Committee to meet with the shippers. After three days of hard work, the Committee met with the shippers. They were successful in obtaining agreements making all wages paid in Imperial Valley retroactive to the beginning of the season, in event of an increase in wages later in the season.

First Union Shop

On Dec. 21 a Rank and File meeting drew up a contract with the assistance of the Organizing Committee. The Negotiating Committee was instructed to present the contract to the shippers.

After a few days of negotiating, one shipper signed a Union Shop contract with a 25% increase in wages as well as overtime after eight hours and double time for the seventh day of work.

Union Shop and overtime were never heard of in Imperial Valley until this time. In addition, many other clauses were incorporated in the contract, making it a contract any union would be proud to possess.

Workers United

On Dec. 29 the workers voted solidly to accept the Contract. The shippers were split.

In 15 days after the workers expressed their desire to work under Union Shop conditions, therefore, a good start was made to sign contracts covering some 3,000 workers in Imeprial Valley. That is the way Local 78 gets places.

Now (Jan. 4) most of the shippers have signed the agreement.

The Negotiating Committee is composed of Duke Cunningham, Chairman; Ed Nelson, Honorary Life-time member; H. A. Miller; Herb Allen; Andy O'Dea; J. McInerney; and of course Chuck Feller, our top Organizer.

The Union Shop contracts not only cover operations for the lettuce industry, but also all of the companies' operations, including carrots and many other mixed vegetables which are grown and packed in Imperial Valley.

Swiftly Agree On Pay Boosts As Work Hums

Saginaw, Mich.—"Dills, sours, sweet and mixed are going to our armed forces as fast as we can get them there," according to Harriet Jacobi, Press Agent of Local 68 at Dailey Pickle. "The year 1943 is going to be a very busy year for all of us."

Two shifts are working, the night crew from 4 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., with a total of 100 workers to keep the pickle barrels rolling out for Uncle Sam. All the new workers are expected to be 100% union shortly.

Seven-Hour Contract

The new contract was negotiated in record time, taking less than seven hours stretching over four days. In the past it was a matter of from three to 10 weeks before agreement was reached.

Aside from proposed wage increases, there were few changes in the previous union shop, check-off agreement. Rest periods, vacations, steward system and other points had been pretty much streamlined in the last contract.

New rates, subject to WLB approval, are 60c for women and 85c for men, in both cases applying to those with one year or more seniority.

Similar rates in the previous contract were 47½c for women and 70c for men, which at that time boosted wages 7½c for women and 10c for men.

New Union Plant To Dehydrate

By Edward Van Leishout, Pr. Ag.

Traverse City, Mich.—After having told us when we were forming our union that the Company would practically cease operating, Cherry Growers, Inc., now under contract with Local 178 is in one of the busiest processing seasons they have ever had.

For 100% Union

They also are completing a new building in which 1,500,000 lbs. of foods will be dehydrated for the Armed Forces. This will mean a considerable increase in employees, and you can bank on it that they will all be Union members soon after starting work at this plant.

Mrs. Birdie Smith, temporary night stewardess, signed up 33 new members the week of New Years. The night crew is rapidly becoming 100% CIO.

Big Canning Area for CIO

A big labor rally was held at the Six County CIO Hall the night of Jan. 12. Two speakers were heard and motion pictures shown of union activities. The turnout shows a keen interest in organizing in this district, which is the heart of the big upstate canning area.

We are expecting to hear from the War Labor Board on the Acmeline case soon, so that we can win UCAPAWA conditions for the workers there, who have voted for Local 178.

Win $165 Back Pay

A Cherry Growers watchman received a check for $165 back wages. Two men operating refrigeration equipment will also receive back pay from July 1. Vice-Pres. Bob Clark has been doing yeoman's service in obtaining these highly satisfactory results for Local 178.

All members of our union in the Armed Forces have been presented with remembrances of $20 or more. Funds are raised by popular subscription.

Stew Cannery Wins Union Maintenance

(Continued from Page 1)

of shortages in qualified workers to continue production of stew for the Army.

The Company has agreed to grant a week's vacation with pay. The Union is asking for two weeks.

Big Shots Hoard Meat

The Black Market in meat and the game of the big packers to withhold meat, in protest against the ceiling prices, has caused work curtailment in all meat using canneries. In Sterling, the maximum days worked in any week for the past two months has been between two and three. With such wage rates, the workers have suffered real privation and the Army is held up in its production schedule.

The Union is pressing this issue through the War Production Board.

PEN PUSHER Ethel Jackson sees to it that no letter from a Local 80 boy in the Armed Services goes unanswered. "This is the least we can do for the boys," says Sister Jackson who also heads the Welfare Committee which sent Christmas boxes to former Local 80 members.

Campbell Soup Women Launch Many-Sided Drive

Chicago—The Women's Organizing Committee of Local 194, set up to strengthen the union among the women workers at Campbell Soup, have launched a blood donors campaign. Already after a few day's work the Committee has collected close to 50 donors. The quota is 150.

The Committee of 30, headed by Verna Gillin, is aiming for complete organization of all women in the plant.

At three successful meetings, stewards have been set up in the various departments and a systematic campaign to settle grievance undertaken.

To Include Home Problems

"The problem is not only to get women into the union and to teach them how to take their place as leaders of the local," Int. Rep. Beatrice Johnson told the Committee, "but also to give every help to women in the solution of their home problems."

Sister Johnson pointed out that women in factories are burdened with such problems as nurseries for their kids, the best use of foods in war time and the health of the family; and that the Union must become the center where these women can get help on such problems.

Local Elects 10 Women

By Luisa Moreno, Int. Vice-Pres.

Los Angeles.—A group of men and women solemnly repeated the UCAPAWA oath on Dec. 28. They are the new Officers and Executive Board members of United Food Processing Workers, Local 3, our large amalgamated organization here.

Some of them had served before; others were being elected for the first time. Among the former were: O. H. "Doc" Johnston, Pres.; Elmo Parra, Fin. Sec.; Lew Peery, Sgt. at Arms.

Serve For First Time

Members from the ranks are Minnie Willingham, Vice-Pres.; Louise Anchondo, Rec. Sec.; Rose Jurado, Rosendo Rivera, Anita Arriola, Marie Wells and Patsy Chichi, Board Members.

Trustees elected for 1943 are: Carmen Esobar, Mary Louise Garcia, Minnie Sanford, Jennie Yniguez and Lucille Swasey.

Recognizing the important role that must be played by women workers in war time, the membership elected 10 women and five men as officers, board members and trustees.

CIO Council delegates appointed to the new Executive Board for approval of the membership are: Marie Wells, Louise Anchondo, O. H. "Doc" Johnston, Elmo Parra and Luisa Moreno, in addition to Sister Willingham who is also serving as a Council Board Member.

Seek Active Membership

"It's not the dollar, but the member that the Union wants," stated Johnston at the meeting of the new Board. Dues payments make the engine wheels turn, the Board members agreed, but what about the active members that make a union strong?

Ways and means to increase attendance at union meetings were extensively discussed; among suggestions approved were door prizes in war stamps or cash, and meetings honoring each national group, such as "Mexican Night," "Russian Night," etc.

Organize For Victory!

"Local 3 must expand as an essential activity. Organizing the unorganized remains the chief task of our Unions in their all-out program to win the war and to win the peace," was the opinion expressed by Int. Reps. Paul Anderson and Luisa Moreno.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION

Giant Cannery Local Wins Uncle Sam's OK

Fullerton, Calif.—Negotiations with Val Vita—Hunt Bros.—biggest cannery in the West—have been opened here by Local 2, which was finally certified as the collective bargaining agency by the NLRB on Dec. 15, 1942.

Meyer Simon, one of the owners of ValVita, has had to eat his boast uttered during the organizing drive to the effect that he would "never recognize the CIO union."

Company and AFL protests against certification of UCAPAWA were overridden by the Board, following hearings in which it was proven that these efforts to obstruct UCAPAWA were phoney.

Leasing Alibi Fails

After the election on Nov. 4 in which UCAPAWA polled the bulk of the votes, leaving only a handful for the Company Union and even less for the AFL, management had claimed that the election should be set aside because Val Vita leased the cannery to Hunt Bros. on Oct. 22.

The Board settled this and other arguments by stating simply and clearly that UCAPAWA represents the workers, as shown by the vote. The tin can shop and the cannery, however, were declared seperate bargaining units since Val Vita is the employer in the can shop, while Hunt Bros. is now boss in the cannery.

Workers Shape Up Pact

Before negotiations opened, the workers chose a committee to draw up the contract, and in a series of meetings went over the terms to be proposed. Elected on the committe were Helen Crooks, who served as secretary, Earl B. Porter, Minnie Sailors, Gussie Ann Russell, Robert G. Harrington, Lucinda Coffman, Izetta Sanders, Bessie Raymond, George McCloud, Carmen Garabito, Bill Boyd and N. W. Dunnington.

Delegates from several CIO locals in the area have formed an Orange County CIO Coordinating Committee, to help build CIO unions in other plants, according to Vice-Pres. Luisa Moreno who heads UCAPAWA's Orange County Organizing Committee which led the Val Vita drive. Helen Crooks of Local 2 was elected Vice-Pres. of the CIO Committee.

Majority in 3 Del Monte Plants Join

Ruth Brooks, Pr. Ag.

De Kalb, Ill.—Field and cannery workers for the California Packing Corp., producers of Del Monte brand, in this area are on the high road of UCAPAWA-CIO organization.

Farm Workers Led

In early December, 17 farm workers of Cal. Pack. met here to start CIO organization. By the end of December, the farm workers were organized 100% and the factory workers, 90%.

On Jan. 5, De Kalb Local 18 went to the two Cal. Pack. plants in nearby Rochelle. Members of the Organizing Committee were George Jagles, Pres.; Curtis Dowden, Treas.; Ernie Carlson; and Vernie Wood. With Int. Rep. Jack Fox in attendance, Brothers Walker and Purvis chaired the meeting.

Now we have a majority in the two Rochelle plants.

Following a meeting with the Labor Relations Board in Chicago early in Jan., Local 18 is planning for an NLRB election in the De Kalb cannery. The Union expects to win hands down.

Editor's Note: New Press Agent August Engelkes of Local 17 in Rochelle reports that "the ball is rolling" there in style, that readers of the NEWS may expect a good story from that quarter shortly.

"There goes Smitty signaling for a left turn. He hasn't got used to walking since rationing."

Facing Our Problems

by DONALD HENDERSON, General President

Are We 'Penny Wise and Pound Foolish'?

What kind of Unionism is it when a Local Grievance Committee works for weeks to satisfactorily settle a grievance to please one member, and then lets the whole Local be destroyed without lifting a finger?

What kind of leadership in the Local do we have when we fight for months to get a 10% wage increase and do not lift a finger to stop a 20% wage cut when cost of living goes up through legislation?

Why have production-for-victory Committees in our Locals and then do nothing to stop Congress from passing laws to freeze labor, hand the War over to dollor-a-year men, cut the heart out of the War Labor Board or the National Labor Relations Act?

Twelve months of the year we work hard to get and build our Union Contract with the Boss; yet most of our Locals don't even visit once in two years their Congressmen to take up a grievance, to press a demand, to prevent him from destroying our Union, our Contract, our wage scale, doubling our cost of living, undermining war production morale, and passing other legislation that obstructs, or contributes to losing the War.

We even back up our Union brothers who go into the armed forces when they may be going to lose their lives, and then sit idly by while a reactionary Congress Bloc prepares to cut the heart out of the President's War Program and sell the boys down a river of blood.

BACK UP LOCAL UNIONISM WITH POLITICAL ACTION

Your Congressman is your responsibility, as well as the actions of your Employer. Your negotiating committee, your shop steward system and grievance committee, your production committee can and will have all their work scrapped unless we work equally hard to get the right kind of relations and actions from our Congressmen and Senators!

Why build a good cellar in our own house if the whole town is going to be blitzed by a Congressional tornado of reactionary laws?

PHIL MURRAY SAYS:

"The preservation of the labor movement of America and particularly the newer unions affiliated with the CIO might very well be hanging in the balance during the present year . . ."

Political Action is necessary and your International Officers feel it necessary to take steps to insure that such action be done by all Locals.

Our Legislative Office is not enough.

We are spending your hard-earned dues money maintaining a Washington Office and a Legislative Representative; Elizabeth Sasuly with Headquarters at 1427 Eye Street, Washington, D. C.

But only action by the membership in the shops and plants and sheds and in the fields can sway Congressmen. Only the people these Congressmen are supposed to represent can talk turkey to him. Only they can put punch in back of our Washington Representatives.

Your International Officers should be properly criticized if they did not insist that all locals must set up immediately machinery for political action. And this must be a day to day and a week to week job just as much as the work of your local grievance committee.

IMMEDIATE STEPS TO TAKE

1) The existing Grievance Committee with the shop stewards must be responsible as the "POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE." This Committee and the shop stewards are closest to the members day by day; together this Committee and the shop stewards can best carry out the political action work of moving the entire membership—in the shop and at meetings. Supplementary sub committees can be developed if the Local feels this desirable. But responsibility for this work must rest first of all on these shoulders.

2) The Political Action Committee must immediately visit personally their Congressman: if he is in Washington now, write immediately for an appointment when he returns. PRESENT THE CIO LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM TO HIM AND TALK IT OVER WITH HIM.

3) Send the name and address of the Chairman of the Political Action Committee to the INTERNATIONAL OFFICE, Attention Elizabeth Sasuly; Room 415, 1505 Race Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

4) If there is a CIO Council in your Community, immediately arrange with them for joint work and joint conferences and actions.

Pin Your Representatives Down! Do They Work and Vote for Victory?

We must start NOW to win for America the CIO's Legislative Program for 1943, the program for which we must battle if we are to continue to eat, keep our unions, and win the war and the peace.

President Henderson in column 1 emphasizes WHY our locals must take up this job and indicates HOW the job should be done. Every Local will get copies of the full CIO program. In the meantime, here are some of the points on which we must pin down the Congressmen.

High Prices

DO YOUR CONGRESSMAN AND SENATORS KNOW THAT

The President of the United States, many months ago, presented to Congress and to the nation a national economic stabilization program. The CIO immediately gave its complete support to the proposal. Unfortunately, only a very small portion of the program has been put into effect and even this portion is now threatened with extinction.

We have permitted the appeasers and defeatists who have obstructed the fulfillment of the program to harp on the resulting difficulties and grievances of the people at the expense of the nation's total mobilization.

We Need Food!

Prices of food commodities have risen at a rapid rate. From bitter experience the wage earners know that there is very little, if any, effective enforcement of price ceilings. Black markets are rapidly developing. Only within the past few days the Office of Price Administration has announced that the price of milk in several large areas is being increased.

Because of the failure to impose an overall rationing of all necessities—the families of wage earners are finding it impossible to buy many foods because of artificial shortages and hoarding. In the face of the present situation, workers in many areas and industries cannot buy enough food or assure other needs to keep up their health and efficiency levels.

DO YOUR CONGRESSMAN AND SENATORS AGREE THAT

The situation is a national disgrace and is one that cannot be tolerated. Total mobilization of the resources of our nation for all-out war is thus threatened.

WILL YOUR CONGRESSMAN AND SENATORS WORK HARD, FOR THE FOLLOWING POINTS? HAVE THEY PROMISED YOU OR YOUR LOCAL IN WRITING?

A. An immediate overall rationing of all foods and other necessities. This program can and must be put into effect at once.

B. An effective enforcement of price ceilings. In many cases present prices can be reduced by the OPA by compelling profiteers to absorb increased costs and decrease the prices on certain foods and other necessities with adequate protection for the interests of the small businessmen.

C. A widespread introduction of representatives of labor organizations in all local and state bodies who have control of price fixing and rationing, in order to give the people a direct participation in this program and to assure effective policing and compliance.

D. A sufficient appropriation for the Office of Price Administration to permit it to really

(Continued on Page 5, Col. 5.)

5) This is a COMMUNITY JOB; not just a LABOR JOB.

National Legislative CIO Representative Nathan Cowan pounds home an important lesson. "We must not merely organize our own members to effective legislative action. We must organize our relationships with other groups in the Community in an effort to bring to Congress a unified, intelligent and awakened Community with a sound demand for sound win-the-war policies."

6) Therefore A. F. of L. and R. R. Brotherhood Locals in your area must be visited and common action undertaken.

7) In every Community there are Churches; there are civic organizations; there are Farmers' groups. You must get busy visiting them; just because they have been standoffish in the past is no reason for allowing past relations to continue. Go after them; talk legislative and government policies over with them. Get joint action going at least on these policies on which you do agree.

8) Finally, your International Office will send materials for your help.

We shall keep you informed on emergency actions and Bills; but this must not take the place of the day to day work.

Your Legislative Office in Washington will be helping you.

Shortly we shall follow up this first outline of work; we must check up to see that all of us are swinging into work.

United and fighting in the field of political action we can and must do a job if all our organizing and contracts are to mean anything and the War won.

For Your Information

NEW OFFICIAL TRANSFER CERTIFICATES are now available from the International.

The locals should use these rather than the very brief form which is printed in some membership books.

Every member who leaves UCAPAWA should get an OFFICIAL TRANSFER. Such transfer certifies that the member is leaving in good standing, with dues paid up and "has always conducted himself or herself as becomes a good union member."

This is especially important for members going into other CIO unions, for with an official UCAPAWA transfer, most other CIO unions will not require payment of initiation fees.

* * *

DRIVING TO UNION MEETINGS is not prevented by the recent Government order forbidding pleasure driving in the East Coast gasoline shortage area.

The OPA has ruled that union meetings fall within the category of "meetings directly related to the occupation or profession of the owner or person using the vehicle," and driving to and from such meetings is therefore permitted as personal necessity driving.

* * *

DECISIONS ON PRICES AND RATIONING are now as important to labor as collective bargaining in the shop. In a war economy, how much a workers' family gets to eat and wear is determined to a large degree by government price and rationing policies.

Labor participation on local war price and rationing boards is, therefore, of first importance.

How to fight for and win this representation is explained in an OPA bulletin which has been sent to UCAPAWA locals. First move is to get together with other labor unions in your community and draw up a list of names to submit to the Defense Council for appointment.

* * *

TUNE IN on the Labor for Victory broadcast Sundays at 1:15 Eastern War Time; 12:15, Central Time; 11:15, Mountain Time; and 10:50, Pacific War Time, over the NBC Red Network. Next CIO program, which comes every other Sunday, will be Feb. 7.

* * *

TO WIN ADEQUATE CARE FOR CHILDREN whose mothers work, the CIO recommends as a starter:

1. That unions in communities where WPA nursery schools are functioning urge Major General Philip Fleming, Administrator of the Federal Work Agency, Washington, D.C. guarantee that these schools continue until other arrangements have been made. Otherwise the schools will be closed when WPA is discontinued on Feb. 1.

2. That labor see to it that projects for child care are prepared and submitted for Federal funds available under the Lanham Act. To date, only 14 child care projects have been approved under the Lanham Act, for the whole U.S.A. Yet, the money is there!

Full CIO instructions on working for child care facilities are available from UCAPAWA News. Simply drop a post card request.

* * *

THE MARCH OF DIMES campaign to raise money to fight infantile paralysis which started Jan. 15 and ends Jan. 30, President Roosevelt's birthday, has the wholehearted support of the CIO.

On State Board

Newark, N. J.—Anthony Valentino, Pres. of amalgamated Local 80 in Camden, was elected to the Executive Board of the New Jersey CIO Council at the Fifth Annual Convention held here in Dec., 1942.

FORWARD MARCH! by HAROLD J. LANE, Sec.-Treas.

We Salute You, 349

I received a money order this morning in the amount of $34.35 from Local 349, Harvielle, Mo. This is a very small amount in comparison with the tremendous operating expenses of our International Union—but this $34.35 represents something far more significant than mere dollars and cents.

The Members of Local 349 have literally gone through hell not only to keep their local alive, but to keep themselves alive.

Evicted in 1939

This sharecropper's local was born in the hearts and minds of the men, women, and children who, on January 10, 1939, were evicted by the planters and landowners of Southeast Missouri and were forced to pile their few sticks of furniture and what little other possessions they had along 100 miles of highway of Route 61 in "Swamp-East" Missouri.

Build Camp

For weeks they huddled along the roadside—some days without food. Finally in June 1940 after this situation had been brought to the attention of the whole nation through the efforts of our International and other organizations, a 93-acre plot of land was purchased. Actually this land consisted of scrub-timber and a thin surface of soil over gravel and rock. They struggled to build some form of shelter from logs, from barrel staves and some were fortunate enough to secure hand-hewn shingles.

When I was there in June 1941 I saw these shacks—made of logs, of clapboard and some with remnants of canvas tents. There was one spring on the edge of the woods that provided the water for the entire camp composed of approximately 300 people.

Get Occasional Jobs

How these people were ever able to make anything grow on this rock and sand is almost miraculous. Their only means of income is an occasional day or two of work as farm hands or during cotton picking time, where in some instances they earn the "enormous" sum of $2.50 to $3.00 a day. Mind you, the workers from this camp are only called upon when no other source is available, because they represent the beacon light to share-croppers in the South. Many of these members never see over $40 or $50 of actual cash during an entire year.

To my knowledge this local has never been delinquent in per capita. In spite of the fact that this money represents a sacrifice on their part—this local would feel highly insulted if we were to return their per capita. Many of our locals are familiar with the history and struggle of these workers and periodically send them large boxes of clothing, which they are sorely in need of, and books of an educational nature to help them in their two room school house.

Staunch Unionists

Yet they carry on—confident that ultimately, and only through organization, they will gain their goal—the goal of all workers—a decent place to live, enough clothing and food for themselves and their children.

I am certain that I voice the sentiments of the whole membership of UCAPAWA when I say to Local 349—"WE SALUTE YOU!"

NEW LOCALS

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE

2 Orange County, Calif.; International Organizing Committee, Luisa Moreno, Chairman.

Company: Val Vita.

4 Orlando, Florida; International Organizing Committee, Otis Nation, Chairman

Companies: Citrus, and allied.

17 Rochelle, Ill.; Walker Butler, Pres., R. R. 1; Wm. A. Purvis, Treas. R. R. 3.

Company: California Packing Corp.

18 DeKalb, Ill.; George Jagle, Pres., 136 Johns St.; Curtis Dowden, Treas., Route 1.

Company: California Packing Corp.

287 South Haven, Mich.; Wayne Webster, Pres., 709 Lee St.; Wm. Cochrane, Fin. Sec'y, 260 Broadway.

Company: Michigan Fruit Canneries.

310 Sterling, Ill.; Betty M. Williamson, Pres., 115 West Fifth St., Rock Falls, Ill.; Lucille Sprankel, Fin. Sec'y, 307 Fifth Ave., Rock Falls, Ill.

Company: Sterling Brands, Inc.

GRAIN PROCESSING

150 Nashville, Tenn.; John William Johnson, Pres., 527 Bricks Alley; Lonnie Bottle, Secy. Treas., 24 Stanley St.

Company: Ralston Purina Co.

SUGAR

16 Decatur, Ind.; Rollie Donald, Pres., 612 N. Third St.; Walter Elzea, Fin. Secy., 116 N. Ninth St.

Company: Central Sugar Company, Inc.

Los Angeles.—Brother August O. Gerber, until recently Financial Secretary of our Union, passed away early in December.

Active in the Union since 1939, Brother Gerber served the membership as shop steward of the California Sanitary Canning warehouse, and in several other offices.

About a year ago he became Financial Secretary of the Amalgamated United Food Processing Workers Local 3.

O. H. Johnston,
President and Business Agent Local 3

Chris Writes to Us

In answer to a Christmas telegram to Christopher Clarich from Pres. Henderson, Bro. Clarich sent a letter, asking that it be printed in UCAPAWA News so that all members will know how he appreciates their support.

Henderson's telegram to Clarich said in part: "You have demonstrated to all of us the spirit of true trade union sacrifice which will long live in the history of our union and the labor movement. I hope the new year will see you active with the other leaders in our union where you belong."

Here is part of Clarich's answer, written from Huntsville Prison, Texas:

It was very nice of you to remember me on Dec. 24, in your nice telegram, and assurance of your whole-hearted support to win my release.

It makes Christmas very nice to know that our leaders and members of UCAPAWA and all affiliated with CIO are now standing and fighting for me, as I once stood and fought for them, nearly losing my life doing so. . . .

In this letter to all I want to show my appreciation for your support and cooperation in the past three and one half years. . . .

I will appreciate the publication of this letter in UCAPAWA News so that all the members of UCAPAWA and all affiliated with CIO may read my earnest appreciation of their cooperation to obtain my release, and for all the donations and gifts which have been sent to my wife and four children.

Fraternally yours,
CHRISTOPHER CLARICH

Bro. Clarich was thrown into jail on a trumped-up murder charge during a shrimp peelers' strike in Aransas, Texas in 1938. Renewed drive to get Clarich released was started in 1942 with the formation of a Texas Free Clarich Committee at the State CIO Convention.

UCAPAWA News

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A1 December Clarich Fund

Mrs. Christopher Clarich received a total of $241 in December, some from UCAPAWA people, some from others. This is indeed good news, since Mrs. Clarich in previous months had received amounts which in total were too small to support herself and the four children properly.

UCAPAWA Locals reported as contributors in Dec. by Mrs. Clarich are: 7-2, 26, 55, 68, 69, 79, 80, 638 and International Office staff.

Locals are urged to forward their Clarich pledges regularly each month. Mrs. Clarich must have a steadier and bigger income in 1943 than she had in 1942.

Next "UCAPAWA NEWS"

The February 15 issue of UCAPAWA News will go to press Feb. 4. Deadline for material is Feb. 1.

It was not possible to print a Jan. 15 issue, since it took a long time to make new printing and mailing arrangements when the office moved from Chicago to Philadelphia.

From now on, the paper is scheduled to reach you promptly.

VICTORY PROGRAM

(Continued from Page 4)

tackle the questions of price control and overall rationing.

E. The replacing of the complicated present price ceiling which relates to March, 1942, with a simple system of fixed cash levels for all basic foods.

Fair Taxes

DID YOU TELL YOUR REPRESENTATIVES ABOUT OUR TAX PROGRAM?

The CIO tax program seeks to assure all people that they will have sufficient money to permit them to buy the necessities of life and maintain themselves and their families on a basis that will guarantee maximum health and efficiency for production.

Toward this end we recommend:

A. Absolute opposition to any sales tax which would be a blow against the war program in that it merely takes away money from those who can least afford to pay.

B. Complete elimination of all war profiteers. This can be done by increasing all corporate taxes, increasing taxes on middle and high income groups, and imposing an effective war profits tax.

C. All unjust and special privileges should be eliminated. This includes requiring married couples to submit joint returns, taxing present tax-exempt state and local securities, and increasing gift and estate taxes.

ARE YOUR REPRESENTATIVES WORKING WITH US FOR POINTS A, B AND C?

These are only two of the 11 planks in the CIO's Victory Program for the nation. The others, ALL very important, and a piece of the same cloth cover:

UNITED NATIONS UNITY, pointing out that "a small group of appeasers and defeatists seek to defeat the essential keystone to our national policy. Fearful to openly oppose the war effort, they snipe away at the lend-lease program and the efforts of this nation to supply necessary food and other necessities of life to the peoples of the united nations."

TOTAL MOBILIZATION underscoring the urgent need for adoption of the Tolan plan to bring order and efficiency into our economy.

SOCIAL SECURITY, calling for establishment of the basis for attaining Freedom from Want, setting forth bills that should be passed now.

DIES COMMITTEE, campaigning to see that Congress gives it no more money since this committee has "so obviously abused its powers and actually engaged in activities detrimental to our war program."

WAR LABOR BOARD, defending it against its reactionary enemies and urging streamlining of its procedure to make it BETTER.

GOVT. EMPLOYEES, winning for them rights such as other labor groups have.

AID TO FARMERS, pledging to help the working farmers to win measures to aid them in growing Food for Victory.

ANTI-LABOR LAWS, blasting the few but powerful people who are trying to "curb" labor, cut pay, etc., on the transparent plea that this would help win the war.

POLL TAX, promising an all-out drive to secure early enactment of the anti-poll tax bill.

TOBACCO DIVISION

Trelles Hearing Set—Need Funds

New Orleans.—Date for the WLB hearing of the case of 600 cigar workers, locked out since Aug. 13, 1942, by El Trelles, has finally been set. The hearing will open Jan. 20. Originally certified to the Board Dec. 4, the case was held up by the Company which tried to claim that the WLB did not have jurisdiction.

The nationwide campaign to raise funds to help Local 91 carry on the struggle is more important than ever, now that victory is in sight.

Our Locals Asked to Help

Richard del Rio, Local 91 Pres., in a letter forwarded to the largest UCAPAWA locals said that money sent now "will be an investment which will pay dividends to the cause of unionism and Victory over Fascism."

"For more than 18 weeks now," wrote Bro. del Rio, "we have been pounding the hard pavements of New Orleans around the El Trelles cigar Co. Yes, we had the extreme audacity to ask for a raise at a time when our wage was about 30c an hour. El Trelles retaliated by closing down the factory, locking out 600 cigar workers.

Opened Plant to Scabs

"El Trelles had a signed agreement with our Union. The lockout was in direct violation of that agreement. On Nov. 1, 1942, El Trelles attempted to resume operations with scab labor.

"Several times the picket line was arrested, and right now 15 or 20 members have charges pending against them. We have long since exhausted our strike fund and our Unemployment Insurance.

"Even with such a long and difficult struggle, to date out of 600 employees, only 100 have gone back to work.

"We need your help in feeding some of these families, and especially we do not want to see these militant union members jailed on trumped-up charges because we are unable to pay their fines."

Nation-Wide Campaign

Resolutions and money in support are already coming in as the result of thousands of communications sent out by a Sponsoring Committee to CIO central bodies and locals all over the United States.

Members of the Sponsoring Committee are: Armando Valdes, UCAPAWA Vice-Pres., Chairman; Thomas A. Russell, CIO Representative and Vice-Pres. of the New Orleans CIO Council; Joseph Rose, Port Agent and National Council member, National Maritime Union; Louis Sahuque, Business Manager, Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America and Ex. Board Member of the New Orleans CIO Council; and Howard Goddard, Regional Director, International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union.

DWG Case Hits WLB Panel in Washington

With a panel meeting set by the War Labor Board for Jan. 20 in Washington, D. C., settlement of the Deisel-Wemmer-Gilbert contract case is in sight. The panel will make a recommendation direct to the WLB for final decision.

Representing the six D-W-G locals will be Vice-Presidents Bob Clark and Evelyn Marks and a Local Committee, assisted by Pres. Donald Henderson and Legislative and Research Director Elizabeth Sasuly.

Wellman Proved Innocent; He Must Not Die March 5

Winston Salem, N. C.—A campaign started originally by the Tobacco Workers Organizing Committee has succeeded in winning a stay of execution for William Mason Wellman, brother of Hunter Wellman, member of UCAPAWA's Service Club of R. J. Reynolds workers.

Now we must win freedom for Wellman.

Governor Reports Facts

In granting a reprieve until March 5, 1943 for Wellman, who was sentenced to die on Dec. 19, 1942, Gov. J. M. Broughton of No. Carolina said, "it is quite obvious that the prisoner could not have been working at Fort Belvoir and receiving and receipting for his pay there during the middle of the day on Feb. 11, 1941, and to have committed the act of criminal assualt on or about one-thirty in the afternoon of the same day in Iredell County, No. Carolina" —some 350 miles away.

This and other sections of the Governor's report fully upheld the position of UCAPAWA and other organizations which urged the Governor to investigate the situation, and to prevent a serious mis-carriage of justice.

UCAPAWA Went to Bat

Actions taken by UCAPAWA included a 2,000 name petition secured by the UCAPAWA RJR Service Club, a 90 word telegram sent to the Governor by the same organization, meetings with the Governor by Int. Rep. Harry Koger, and a strong telegram from International Officers Donald Henderson, Conrad Espe and Harold J. Lane, urging a pardon, pointing out that "we are interested both in justice for an individual and in maintaining the confidence of millions of people in our democratic war effort."

Wellman, a Negro, was charged with raping a 67 year old white woman, who "identified" him in a police line-up as the one who criminally assaulted her. It was at the recent investigation by the Governor that it was proved beyond a shadow of doubt that Wellman was hundreds of miles away when the crime was committed.

Job to Do: Win Freedom

In behalf of the RJR Service Club, Int. Rep. William Deberry urges UCAPAWA Locals and members to flood Governor Broughton at Raleigh, No. Carolina with telegrams, letters and post cards, asking that he pardon Wellman. An innocent man must not die on March 15.

Federated Press

STRIPPED FOR ACTION, former commandant of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Lieut. Gen. Robert (Uncle Ike) Eichelberger believes in sharing the discomforts and dangers of his troops. He is shown with carriers who tote supplies to our boys in New Guinea, where UCAPAWA members are numbered among the fighters.

New Year Wish From Local 55

If I could only say the things
A friendly heart can feel.
There'd be a lot of happiness
This message would reveal.

Hope we'll soon have peace again.
And I wish even more;
Hope we'll have a better world
Than we've ever had before.

I hope some dream comes true for you,
Some blessing rare, from prayers so deep.
I hope you'll find some joy that leaves
A message you can always keep.

Some happy hours to fill your day
Success to smile upon your way;
Weeks that are filled with glad success,
Solidarity and happiness.

—By Jennie Stiver,

FIGHTING TOBACCO WORKERS who have recently started training with Uncle Sam's Army to take a poke at some anti-union gents known as Hitler, Musso and Hiro. The Brothers above are from D-W-G Local 71 in Van Wert, O., Pvt. William Mullen (left), and Pvt. Wilbur Murphy, former Local 71 Vice-Pres. Shaking hands before the Consolidated Tobacco plant in Lancaster, Pa., Local 638 are Robert Smith (left), and Ralph "Shorty" Fickes.

Notes from LOCALS

55 First meeting after the holidays of Local 55 at P. Lorillard in Middletown, O., was well attended. Everyone was interested in suggestions for the new contract we hope to negotiate during the month of March.

All soldiers whose addresses were turned in to the Committee were sent a carton of Old Gold cigarettes for Christmas. There is still a balance of cash for many others when we receive their addresses.

All members on sick leave were remembered, and we voted to continue the flower collection for the sick. Two $100 bonds were proudly displayed.

Mr. Paul Fasser, organizer for Steel, told us of their progress at the American Rolling Mill and thanked us for our cooperation. He also stated that two other firms in Middletown were organizing successfully.

—By Jennie Stiver, Press Agent

71 Van Wert, O., Local 71 of D-W-G is getting along fine, with less grievances since we have a new manager. We didn't have even one grievance for our last Joint Council Meeting of all Ohio D-W-G locals with Management.

Our membership is steadily increasing and Bond sales are coming along in fine shape.

We all enjoyed lovely presents on Christmas exchanges all over the factory. Also the manager, bosses and office force were all presented lovely presents from the employees.

We are expecting to meet with the War Labor Board in the very near future and hope to finish our new contract. We do hope Pappa Gilbert's health will permit him to attend this meeting.

—Bertha Winters, Press Agent

281 Mr. Carl Jenson, for many years Supt. of the Webster plant in Detroit, which is under contract with Local 281, left to take up duties in the plant in Reading, Pa. The employees gave him a lovely travelling bag, the best of luck for his new assignment.

Uncle Sam has called Bro. Francisco Chevarriaga to the colors. Best of wishes go out to him from the employees who gave him a lovely gift and purse.

Local 281 sent Christmas gift boxes to all the boys at Camp who have left the Local so far.

Five delegates from 281 attended the conference of Michigan locals on Dec. 13.

—By Kathryn Bennett, Pr. Ag.

638 At Christmas time, Local 638 at Consolidated Cigar in Lancaster, Pa., sent a gift of $5 to each of the boys previously employed here who are now in the Armed Forces.

The following letter from Samuel Lawrence is typical of the letters of thanks. Bro. Lawrence is now Sgt. in the Air Corps at Kessler Field, Miss.

"The remembrance on Christmas was greatly appreciated, and kind thoughts such as this make us boys feel that we are all united for a victory soon to be ours.

"My army life is very enjoyable. At present my duties as sgt. are the training and care of the new men coming to Kessler Field.

"Hope my letter finds all well, and I wish all of Local 638 a belated Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

—By Miriam E. Yaeger, Rec. Sec.

RJR A demand that R. J. Reynolds employees be represented in the new gasoline rationing set-up, an intensified drive to save the life of William Wellman, and a pledge of all volunteer organizers to increase the flow of applications marked the first meeting of the Winston Salem Volunteer Organizers' Club in 1943.

The meeting was in the new quarters of the Tobacco Workers Organizing Committee. (Int. Rep. Frank Hargrove is now TWOC chairman, taking over from Int. Rep. Harry Koger, now assigned to the Richmond-Suffolk, Va. area. For full Wellman story, see col. 2).

—By Frank Hargrove, Int. Rep.

Fired Peanut Steward Wins $400 Back Pay

Suffolk Va.—Pond's Peanut Co. did NOT get away with firing Mrs. Mary E. Winstead; their excuse, that "she did not work hard enough," did not sit well with the federal authorities when Local 26 called attention to the matter!

Local 26 took the case to the NLRB which forced the Company to pay Sister Winstead $400 in back pay, for the working time she lost as the result of the unfair discharge. Sister Winstead at the time of the discharge was the Chief Shop Steward in the plant, and a very Good Steward, too.

Worked Since 1905

Sister Winstead, now 62 years old, had worked at the same plant since 1905. She had never earned more than 30c an hour until in July 1942 she landed a job at Planter's Peanut, where we have a contract calling for a 40 cents minimum.

(Pond's is one of the companies where UCAPAWA is tussling to get a decent contract. The case is now in the hands of the WLB.)

Mother of 14 Kids

A typical peanut worker, Sister Winstead has not had an easy life. She is the mother of 14 children, six of whom are living. All but one of the children died before they were four years old.

After all, it is no cinch to raise 14 children while you are working in a peanut plant, earning from 40c to 60c a DAY, for 10 hours of work.

But with the coming of UCAPAWA-CIO and the Wage and Hour law, a better day dawned for peanut workers.

Militant Unionist

Now Sister Winstead can work for better conditions, together with her fellow workers. She did not let the chance slip. When she was fired, she was not alone. Her Local, led by officers like Pres. Leroy Harris, Fin. Sec. L. V. Freeman and Robbie Mae Riddick, knew how to get justice. Result: the $400 check which the NLRB ordered Pond's to pay to their fired employee who they had tried to claim "did not work hard enough."

Photo by Harry Koger

"LOOK, FELLOW-MEMBERS, this is the $400 which it cost Pond Peanut Co. for firing me," says Mrs. Mary E. Winstead, outstanding Local 26 member in Suffolk, Va., who was chief shop steward when she was bounced after having worked there there over 35 years.

See story col. 1

Elect 16 "Victory" Walnut Stewards

Los Angeles.—During recent Local 3 elections, women workers employed at the two DIAMOND walnut plants of the Calif. Walnut Growers Assn. chose through secret ballot 16 of their co-workers to serve as shop stewards.

Re-elected and new stewards are: Lucille Swasey, Helen Murillo, Kathryn Massoud, Sarah Runfola, Anna Brown, Esther Ybarra, Jennie Yniguez, Judy Garcia, Teresa Barron, Grace Bizayiff, Peggy Vendrell, Aggie Juarenz, Nellie Holguin, Marie Wells, Sarah Kachandurian and Anita Arriola.

Distinguished Chief Steward

Lucille Swasey, new Plant No. 1 Chief Steward has been a union member since 1939. She organized and helped negotiate the Glaser Nut contract and was a steward at Calif. Sanitary Canning and Glaser Nut Shelling plants, both part of Local 3. She is now serving on the Walnut plants' gas rationing committee.

Lucille, who's husband is in the U. S. Navy, is working hard to win the war. Upon hearing of her election, she pledged to do her best for the walnut girls.

DRIED FRUIT AND NUT DIVISION

Local 511 Gains First Peanut Union Security

Suffolk, Va.—An intensified drive for new members at Planters Peanut and Chocolate Co., completion of negotiations with seven other peanut companies in Suffolk and nearby Franklin, and a campaign to bring all members in the eight plants up-to-date on their membership dues are the chief items on the agenda of Local 26, Suffolk, and Local 511, Franklin, according to Int. Harry Koger who has been recently assigned to help the Locals in these drives in the "peanut capital."

Franklin Wins "Security"

First break-through on the Union Security question came in Franklin when the Franklin Peanut Co. signed a maintenance of membership understanding with Local 511, first such clause in the peanut industry. This is a major victory in the long, uphill fight of the peanut workers for strong UCAPAWA locals through which to break once for all the stranglehold of miserable wages and working conditions.

Maintenance of membership at Franklin requires all present and future members to keep in good standing in the Union. Members of Local 511 are going to town on the job of signing up their fellow workers.

WLB Moves in Suffolk

Substantial increase in dues payments and new initiations is reported in Suffolk by Rev. L. V. Freeman, Fin. Sec. of Local 26. Bro. Freeman credits this increased activity to the recent successes in getting the War Labor Board into action in the cases involving four of the so-called independent peanut companies: Lummis, Pond's, Suffolk and American.

Union Fights 30c Pay

These outfits, together with Pretlow and Franklin in Franklin, Va., have clung doggedly to the 30c minimum wage which UCAPAWA refuses to put into the proposed Union contracts. Too low under any circumstances, the wage is especially miserable because peanut workers do not get full year-round work.

At Planter's, under contract with UCAPAWA, female workers get a 40c minimum for identically the same type of work.

Pretlow and Franklin Peanut Companies, while refusing a raise for their women employees, have decided to raise the wages of the men to an average of about 50c an hour, to compete with nearby war industries in Norfolk and Newport News.

"The Union," said Int. Rep. Harry Koger, "is demanding a voice before the WLB in order that ALL employees will receive fair treatment on wage increases."

First Memphis Nut Pact Is Union Shop

Memphis, Tenn.—With their first contract under the belt, workers at the Memphis Pecan and Walnut Co. form one of the newest sections of amalgamated Local 19 which includes workers in cotton seed oil, cotton compress, grain processing, as well as other allied industries.

Check-Off, Pay Increases

The Pecan and Walnut agreement calls for a Union Shop, check-off, increases of three and five cents per hour, overtime after eight hours per day, as well as 40 per week, seniority and grievance procedure, to mention only a few of the good points covered.

Strikers Go Back When Union Explains the Score

By HARRY KOGER, International Representative

Suffolk, Va.—The one-day walk-out of a minority group of non-union workers of the Suffolk Peanut Co. plant here on Jan. 4 afforded an excellent example of union education and discipline, in contrast to no union education nor discipline. The Company, faced with loss of their male employees through competitive wages paid by the nearby shipyards of Norfolk, threw the traditional bone to the male workers early in the current peanut season by agreeing to pay them the all-high wage for peanut workers of 50c an hour.

Female employees' wages were left at the traditional 30c level.

Had Quit the Union

In the face of this unfair discrimination, the women workers remained loyal to the Union, while many of the men, thinking they had suddenly become "bosses' pets," decided they did not need union protection.

Now it so happens that Local 26 is fortunate in having well-trained, militant leadership. Such outstanding leaders at Brothers Leroy Harris, L. V. Freeman, Sister Robbie Mae Riddick and others realize fully that labor's number one job is to produce food and equipment for our fighting and production forces.

Union Fights Fascism

These leaders never miss an opportunity to talk about the seriousness of this war against the Hitler-Axis and to point out that every hour wasted may cause damage to our side in the war, the side of the progressive people.

But the 46 men who went out on strike at Suffolk Peanut had not been attending union meetings, so they missed out on this important education on our job of helping to win the war.

"Food for Victory" Explained

It was only after Bro. Leroy Harris, Local 26 Pres., corralled a group of them the night of the walk-out and explained the workings of the National War Labor Board and the importance of our "Food for Victory" program that they agreed to go back to work.

These mis-guided brothers learned another lesson when the Union pursuaded Management to pay a half day's wages to some 120 women employees who were forced to remain idle because of the bottleneck caused by the wildcat strike.

Editor's Note: Immediate cause of the strike was the delay by the WLB in handing down a decision on peanut pay increases. A Board representative has promised the Union to push through a decision as fast as possible.

Bosses Must Obey WLB

In a statement to the Suffolk News-Herald, Int. Rep. *Harry* Koger made it quite clear that UCAPAWA is determined to abide by the no-strike pledge, and to settle all disputes through government machinery, accepting decisions arrived at in this way and that we "expect employers to do the same thing."

Tobacco

No Small Pox Will Get Into Local 638

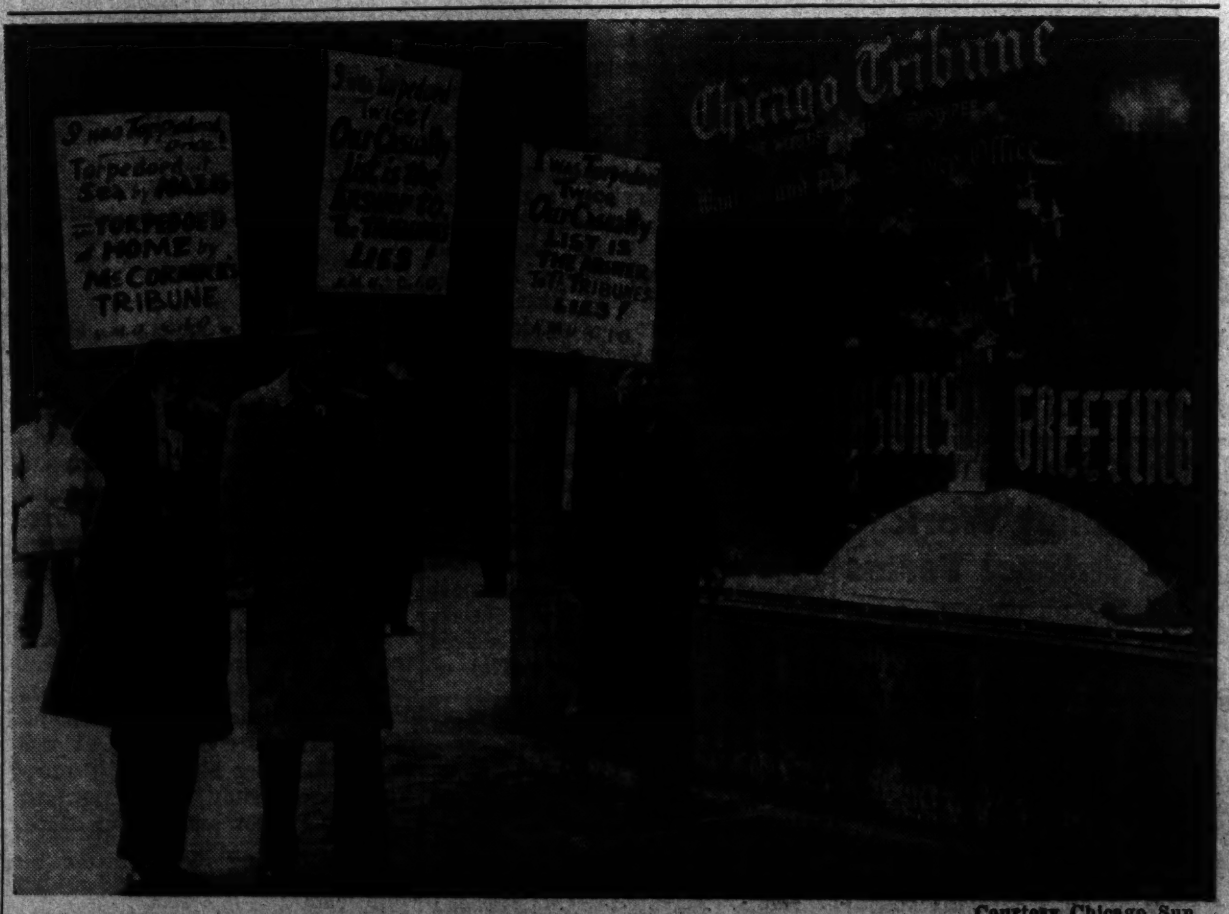
By Miriam E. Yeager, Rec. Sec.

Lancaster, Pa.—Alert to serve and protect its members in every possible way, Local 638 at the Consolidated Cigar here arranged so that the workers could at low cost be quickly vaccinated against small pox, which has appeared in this area.

The Company agreed to the proposal of Local 638 to arrange with the local Board of Health authorities to come to the plant to vaccinate the employees.

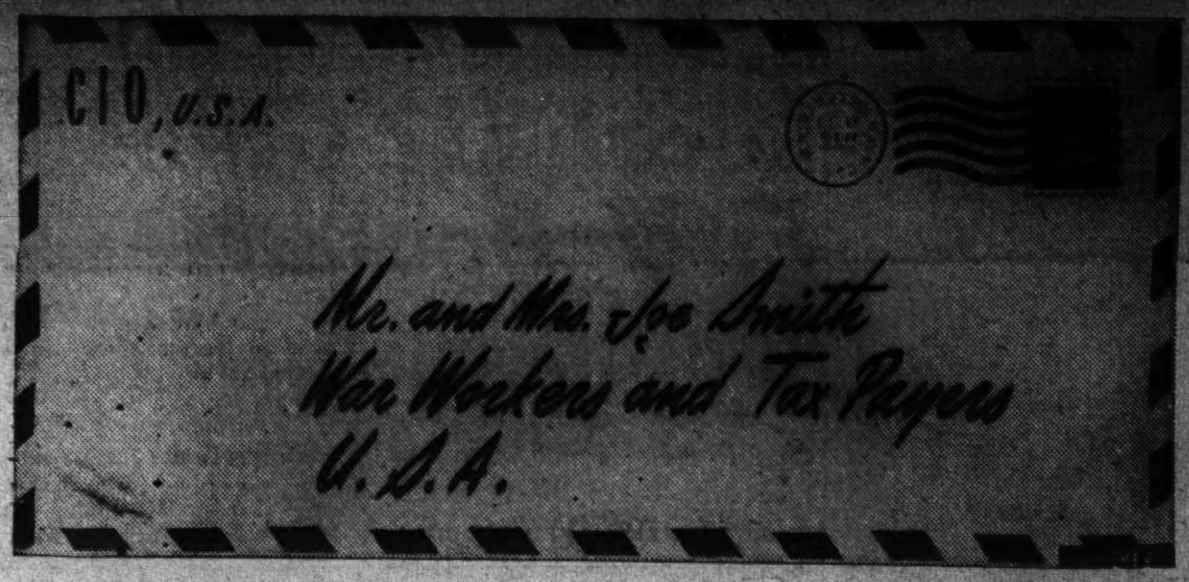
Result was that 400 were vaccinated in approximately two and one-half hours, at 50c each.

The Union made this suggestion because the doctors' offices were overcrowded due to the emergency created in fear of an epidemic. Besides, doctors' fees ranged from $1 to $2 each.



Courtesy Chicago Sun

PICKETING THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE in protest against the attack by Publisher Robert R. McCormick on the valor of the merchant marine, are three members of the National Maritime Union (CIO), all of whom have been torpedoed at sea. McCormick is a notorious appeaser who has been straining every nerve to hurt the war effort. NMU Pres. Joseph Curran denouncing this stab in the back of heroic seamen "by Fascist-minded men at home," declared that the NMU would keep 'em sailing despite these attacks.



HIT BY THE VICTORY TAX, wage earners and other not-so-rich Americans are taking notice of the tax question. This CIO pamphlet tells what WE must do to see to it that a proper win-the-war tax program is passed, in which the rich will pay their share. Many Congressmen are cooking up other schemes which would make the Victory Tax look like peanuts. Samples of "Mr. and Mrs. Joe Smith" have been sent to UCAPAWA Locals.

Milling Workers Vote CIO—Chuck "Independent"

Harbor Beach, Mich.—Workers at the Huron Milling Co. started the new year right by joining up with UCAPAWA-CIO. In an NLRB election Dec. 29, the vote was 163 for Local 20, to 110 for the American Industrial Union, an "Independent." This thumping vote to retire the "Independent" was predicted in the last issue of the News.

Sick of Dictatorship

"Mark this victory up to a group of workers who were sick and tired of a company-dominated independent union," said Int. Vice-Pres. Bob Clark, "and who resented being bossed by the dictatorship of the President and Secretary of the so-called American Industrial Union."

The UCAPAWA group was led by Local 20 Pres. George Hickens and Sec. Roy Wisenbaugh.

Products of Huron Milling are wheat and corn starch, gluegum, paste, wallpaper sizing, gluton flour and wheat protein products. Gluton flour, which has no starch in it and is very high in protein, is used for the treatment of diabetes.

Contract negotiations were scheduled to start around the middle of January.

Big Cemetery Local Wins Vote At Evergreen, Jobs And Pay At Hebron

Brooklyn.—Victories chalked up by Local 293 recently indicate that both Evergreen Cemetery and Mt. Hebron Cemetery workers will be part and parcel of UCAPAWA shortly. The largest cemetery in the world, Greenwood, has been under contract with the Union for a number of years.

At Evergreen an election was won by a three to one margin, and at Mt. Hebron a State Labor Board decision reinstates with back pay four men who were fired for union activity.

These successes are in large part due to the excellent leadership of Local 293 Pres. Joseph Manning, reports Int. Rep. Barney Henley.

Vote UCAPAWA 58 to 16

At Evergreen the vote was 58 for UCAPAWA to 16 against where an up-and-coming Shop Committee composed of Fred Chaudell, William McCauley and Harry Pascoe carried much of the organizing ball. Contract negotiations were slated to open promptly.

When organization started at Mt. Hebron in August, 1941, this anti-union outfit up and fired Michael Monaco, James Monaco, Nichol. Savino and Frank Laurence, as a move to slap down the young union movement among the men.

Mt. Hebron Slapped Down

Now the State Labor Board has upheld the union, ordering that the four get back their jobs, plus full back pay to make up to them the wages they lost. The Company has furthermore been ordered to post copies of the cease and desist order of the Board, which drives the final nail into the coffin of anti-unionism.

Henley predicts that "very soon we are sure that we can report a union agreement has been signed with this anti-union management."

Sharecroppers

80 Families Work Out Contract Terms

Trumann, Ark.—When the sharecroppers, tenants and day laborers on the Judd Hill plantation south of here open negotiations for a contract, they will have behind them the strength of the entire Local 85, which recently won a contract with the big Poinsett Mfg. Co.

Following this victory in the biggest factory in the area, Local 85 began signing up agricultural workers. With some 80 families out of a total 125 who live on the Hill plantation already members of UCAPAWA, the Union is working out its contract proposals to present to the plantation management.

Organization is also underway at two other nearby plantations.

Hit the Headlines!

Here's a chance for fame and glory: first Local to report full-fledged Political Action will get a big play in UCAPAWA NEWS and in other papers. Tell HOW you started the work and results so far. Send a picture. Get one with your Congressman, if possible!

See page 4.

YOUR DOLLAR

By Consumer Union

MEN'S WOVEN SHORTS

Men's shorts cost about 10c a pair more than they did last year. On top of that, Consumers Union technicians found almost all of them are skimped in one or more measurements. Ten pairs of the 54 CU tested were so badly skimped that they would make the user thoroughly uncomfortable. And these badly skimped shorts, some of them well advertised brands, were sold at prices as high as $1. Therefore, no matter what price you pay, examine carefully the shorts you buy.

Unfold them to make sure they have the necessary fullness. Make sure about color fastness too. Unless color fastness is guaranteed, it's safer to stick to solid colored or white broadcloths. Solid colors should be washed separately to prevent staining of other clothes.

Best Buys were Leeds (Schulte Cigar Stores, 35c); Craftsman (J. C. Penney, 39c); Pilgrim Nobility (Sears Roebuck, 69c plus postage) and Healthgard Standard Quality (Montgomery Ward, 49c plus postage). Other good quality shorts were BVD and Varsity, both at $1.

SHEETS

Many sheets now being sold as first quality are actually of second or inferior quality. Twenty five of the 57 sheets recently tested by CU were seconds, although they were sold as firsts. This is a violation of OPA's requirement that seconds be labeled as such and sold at reduced price. In addition, nine of the sheets did not comply with OPA's requirements for tensile strength.

When you buy sheets as firsts, examine each one carefully. If it has small imperfections which make it a second, ask for another sheet or for a 10% discount, as required by OPA. Oil stains or mend marks make a sheet a second, but do not affect the wear. But missing threads, or threads not caught into the weave, will affect the wear and should be avoided.

Best Buys of muslin sheets tested by CU were: Sears Guest Chamber ($1.64 plus postage); Penney's Penco ($1.69); and Ward's Treasure Chest ($1.64 plus postage). Other high quality muslins were Indian Head, Dwight Anchor, Pequot and Golden Gate.

The following sheets tested by CU are unionmade, under contract with the Textile Workers Union (CIO): Indian Head, Dwight Anchor, Pequot, Golden Gate, Utica, Duchess, Lady Pepperell, Wearwell, Princess, Peeress, Indian Maiden, Duracale, Mohawk. Wamsutta's Supercale is also unionmade, under contract with the United Textile Workers (AFL).

—From Federated Press

COTTON SEED OIL AND COMPRESS DIVISION

Pioneer Local Moves Into 3rd Mississippi Plant

Greenville, Miss.—Organization is forging ahead in this town where several months ago Local 283 won the first CIO contracts ever to be signed in the state of Mississippi. UCAPAWA-CIO has petitioned for an NLRB election at the U. S. Gypsum plant where some 330 are employed.

The previous contracts — both calling for maintenance of membership—were at Refugee Cotton Oil and Vegetable Oil Mill.

Meet Shed Eagins!

President of this vigorous new local, which only started to organize last October, is Shed Eagins who has quickly caught on to the union "know-how."

The story goes that after hearing the Chamber of Commerce programs on the radio lambasting the CIO, Bro. Eagins figured that if the C. of C. hated it, the CIO must be good for the workers.

Then he took two steps. First he got ahold of Vice-Pres. Otis Nation up in No. Little Rock, on the long distance telephone, to get the help of UCAPAWA. At the same time he bought himself a book on collective bargaining. The book cost $7, paid for out of the wages of about $14 a week which Bro. Eagins was making at the time.

We Organize In Another Delta Town

Arbyd, Mo.—With a petition in for an NLRB election at the Arbyd Cotton Compress, and in the process of taking out a charter as a UCAPAWA-CIO local by the Arbyd workers, UCAPAWA has laid the ground-work to bring the workers in this Mississippi-Delta town into the Union.

This is an important addition to the string of industrial locals which UCAPAWA is building in the Mississippi Delta region, in No. Little Rock, Jonesboro, Trumann and Helena, Ark., Memphis, Tenn. and Greenville, Miss.

Org. Comm. Job

Working with the Mississippi Delta Organizing Committee, formed and financed by the locals in the area, Jean Zier, Sec. of Local 98 in No. Little Rock is helping the Arbyd workers organize.

Company That Held Out 13 Months Signs Contract

No. Little Rock, Ark.—Biggest Holiday Season news here was the signing of a CIO contract at McLean-Arkansas, which had held out on this matter for 13 months.

But the men, members of Local 98, who had won a thumping NLRB election knew how to stick by the Union. For 13 months they paid dues and came to Union meetings, even though they had not yet succeeded in getting that contract.

Came to CIO Office

Sweetest angle of the contract signing to the men was the fact that A. E. McLean came into the CIO office to sign. McLean is President of the bank here and one of the leading lights in the Chamber of Commerce.

Laying down basic terms for collective bargaining, settling on grievance procedure, seniority and hours, other major points are to be taken to the War Labor Board for settlement, first Greater Little Rock case to go to the Board.

Big WLB Case

McLean Arkansas, in true Montgomery "Monkey" Ward style has refused to agree to wage increases and union security unless ordered to do so by the Government Board.

To be decided by the WLB according to the signed contract are wages and retroactive date, pay for vacations and holidays, Union security and check-off.

Buy New Year Bond

Bakersfield, Calif.—New Year's resolutions of Cotton Compress Workers' Local 272 included "all out for Victory" and determination to get more stories to UCAPAWA NEWS!

"We started the year off with $100 worth of Victory Bonds," writes Press Agent Ben Fleming, "and we are going to do all in our power to help defeat the Axis."

Sharecroppers Plea Govt. For Chance To Grow Food

Harviell, Mo.—Pleading for a chance to get back into farming, and pointing out their wholehearted support of the Food for Victory Program to help defeat the Axis world-threat, Local 349 whose members are former sharecroppers, wrote President Roosevelt that "we do not believe we can play our part in this war by setting upon a bare-rock hill."

Manpower Wasted

The letter, which also went to Governor Donnell and Secretary of Agriculture Claude R. Wickard, made it quite clear that unless these farmers can be put to work growing food, this is a terrible waste of manpower just at a time when shortage of labor on farms is one of the most serious win-the-war problems.

Members of Local 349, practically all Negro, have lived together in the "Sharecroppers' Camp" here ever since they were evicted from plantation homes in 1939.

Signers of the letter are E. L. Hughes, Pres. of the Missouri Agricultural Workers Council; Leroy Pulliam, Pres. Local 349, and Emmett Yarbrough, Ida Wilson, Beaufort Fleming and Alfred Williams.